

PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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sustainindy

Volunteers Pick Up Ten Tons of Trash at 21st Annual White River Cleanup

INDIANAPOLIS – Approximately 200 volunteers joined together for the 21st annual White River Cleanup on Saturday, April 11, 2009. As a result of their efforts, ten tons of debris was cleared from the White River banks.

City employees, volunteers and nonprofit groups began cleanup activities at 8:30 a.m. at five sites along the White River. Many young people were among the participants in this year's family-friendly event, which traditionally includes people from a wide variety of backgrounds. Portions of Pleasant Run, a tributary that feeds into the White River, also received some spring-cleaning.

“The Department of Public Works (DPW) is proud to be part of this event again this year,” said Chief Engineer Steve Nielsen. “Just like the volunteers, the city of Indianapolis is committed to improving and protecting our environment, and we’re making progress through the SustainIndy initiative. But we need the public’s help. Everyone can help year-round to reduce the amount of trash in the White River and other Indianapolis waterways by not dumping trash and other debris into storm drains, which flow directly into our waterways, and by disposing of trash at the proper locations.”

Instead of dumping trash along the White River, citizens should take heavy trash loads to the Marion County Citizens’ Transfer Station located at 2700 S. Belmont Ave. and open Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. A carload is \$2.00 and a truckload is \$5.00. To report illegal dumping, call the Mayor’s Action Center at 317-327-4MAC (4622).

Sponsors of this year’s cleanup include DPW, SustainIndy, Indy Parks, United Water, Friends of the White River, Greenways Foundation, Old National Bank, Arni’s Restaurant, Chipotle, crittur.com and White River State Park.

Mayor Ballard launched SustainIndy and created the Office of Sustainability in October 2008. Both represent an innovative enterprise aimed at delivering long-term cost savings to the city, building the local economy, improving our quality of life and enhancing our environmental and public health. Its efforts are designed to aggressively move Indianapolis forward in making it one of the most sustainable cities in the Midwest. For more information, visit www.sustainindy.org.

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